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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi
of Italy and President Vladimir Putin of the
Russian Federation (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Prime Minister Berlusconi
President Putin

Notetakers: David Zimov, Mark Robinson, and
Laura Hart

Interpreters: Elisabetta Ullmann and
Peter Afanassenko

DATE, TIME August 31, 2003, 10:17 - 10:22 a.m., EDT
AND PLACE: Residence

The President: Yes, Silvio, how are you, friend? (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: George, how are you? We are having a
holiday. I am here with Vladimir Putin. (U)

The President: Are you in Italy or in Russia? (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: In Italy. We are in Sardinia. (U)

The President: Fantastic. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: We spoke a lot of time about you.
(U)

The President: Well, thank you, friend. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: We said it would be fantastic if you
could be here with us. (U)

The President: Yes, I'd love to be there with you, with my two
good friends. (U)

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Classified by: Gregory L. Schulte

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify on: 9/2/13

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Prime Minister Berlusconi: We spoke about Iraq and Vladimir said he's interested to write a new resolution about the consent of the United Nations. (S)

The President: That was good. I read his statement.. Thank you, Silvio. (S)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: We want to help with the situation in Iraq. (S)

The President: Thank you. You did good work there. (S)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: I'll pass the phone to Vladimir. (S)

The President: Thank you, Silvio. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: We spoke every moment about you and your loyalty, our friendship for the United States. We call you to wish you the best of things. (S)

The President: Gracias. Usted es como familia. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: Gracias, George. Thank you so much for your hospitality at your ranch -- for me to be like family. (S)

The President: We will do it again. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: You will be in New York for the European Presidents, I think, September 20 or 22, so I will have the possibility to see you? (S)

The President: Por cierto. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: I'll pass you to Vladimir. Ciao, George. (U)

The President: Thank you, friend. (U)

Prime Minister Berlusconi: I embrace you, friend. (U)

President Putin: Hello, George. (U)

The President: Hello, Vladimir. How are you? (U)

President Putin: I am fine, how are you? I have two holiday days here with our friend Silvio in Italy, but I don't speak Italian now. (S)

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The President: Fantastic. (U)

President Putin: We'll see you soon in the United States. (S)

The President: Yes, at Camp David. (S)

President Putin: What about your family? Is everything all right? (S)

The President: Yes. Thank you for your statement on Iraq. It was very good. That's what a friend would say and I appreciate it. (S)

President Putin: We will have time to talk about it soon. (S)

The President: Your English is getting very good. You've been practicing. (U)

President Putin: Thank you, George. (U)

The President: All the best. (U)

President Putin: Ciao, George. (U)

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Prime Minister Berlusconi: George, ciao. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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